

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
3 March 2005 (03.03.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/019280 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C08F 10/02**, C08L 23/04, C08F 2/00, 2/34, B01J 8/18
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/EP2004/008063
- (22) International Filing Date: 19 July 2004 (19.07.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
03077645.4 20 August 2003 (20.08.2003) EP
60/497,900 25 August 2003 (25.08.2003) US
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Declaration under Rule 4.17:**
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only
- Published:**
— with international search report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR THE POLYMERIZATION OF ETHYLENE

(57) Abstract: Process for preparing a broad molecular weight polyethylene by polymerizing ethylene in the presence of a polymerization catalyst, the process comprising the following steps, in any mutual order: a) polymerizing ethylene, optionally together with one or more a-olefinic comonomers having from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, in a gas-phase reactor in the presence of hydrogen, b) copolymerizing ethylene with one or more a-olefinic comonomers having from 3 to 12 carbon atoms in another gas-phase reactor in the presence of an amount of hydrogen less than step a), where in at least one of said gas-phase reactors the growing polymer particles flow upward through a first polymerization zone under fast fluidization or transport conditions, leave said first polymerization zone and enter a second polymerization zone through which they flow downward under the action of gravity.

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